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**Hyoscyamus Niger.**  
(*Henbane.*)

“THIS plant is found in the northern and eastern sections of the United States, occupying waste grounds in the older settlements, particularly graveyards, old gardens, and the foundations of ruined houses. It grows in abundance about Detroit, in Michigan. It is not, however, a native of this country, having been introduced from Europe. In Great Britain, and on the continent of Europe, it grows abundantly along the roads, around villages, amidst rubbish, and in uncultivated places. Both varieties are cultivated in England. The annual plant flowers in July and August, the biennial in May or June.” The biennial is the officinal plant, though we are not aware of any difference between the two as regards medical properties.

The toxical action of Henbane is much less powerful than that of the Stramonium and Belladonna; still, it is similar if the doses are proportionately increased.

It is related that the Benedictines of the convent of Rinhow ate it in the form of salad, mistaking it for the root of chicory. After the repast the good friars lay down, and the symptoms of poisoning soon began to manifest themselves—general uneasiness, pain in the bowels, vertigos, burning heat in the mouth and throat. At midnight, the hour of matins, one of the monks was raving foolish; they thought him about to die, and gave him the viaticum. Among the others who had gone to the service, some could not

read, nor open their eyes; others jumbled up disjointed words with their prayers, while others thought they saw ants running over their prayer-books. In the morning, the brother tailor could not thread his needle, and saw it three-pointed. All recovered.

If the Henbane is taken in sufficiently large doses, it can cause death, and the symptoms are the same as have been described as belonging to the stramonium and belladonna.

It is a natural inference, and one justified by experience, that the phenomena produced on the healthy organism being identical, the therapeutical effects will be the same—the only difference being, that the doses require to be increased in the case of the henbane. The uses of henbane were but little known to the ancients. Dioscorides gave it internally to subdue pain, and Celsus made of it a collyrium, which he injected into the ears, in cases of purulent otirrhoea. Little of importance is found respecting it till the middle of the eighteenth century, when Storek made those numerous experiments with it, which have given it so important a position in the materia medica. He cites numerous cases of success in the treatment of hypochondria, mania, hysteria, epilepsy, various convulsions, but the same exaggerations appear in his statements concerning this, as have been made evident by experience in the use of other narcotics on which he experimented and wrote. While recent investigations have weakened belief in the majority of the marvelous results announced by Storek, yet they have, at the same time, proved that the hyoscyamus has, in certain cases, an incontestable utility.

Whitt employed the extract in doses of one-half to one grain as a sedative in nervous diseases. Stoll preferred it to opium in the treatment of *Colica Metallica* (*Painter's Colic*), because, in soothing the pain, it did not constipate the bowels. It is now often advised in whooping-cough, and with as much advantage as belladonna or stramonium.

The utility of hyoscyamus in cases of neuralgia is beyond question. It is especially advised as an internal remedy, and the celebrated pills of Meglin, composed of equal parts of oxide of zinc, extract of hyoscyamus and extract of valerian, constitute one of the most common remedies in neuralgia; still it appears that in this combination, the henbane is the active component. When the neuralgia is superficial, the local application of the extract of



henbane is much more prompt in its effects than the internal administration.

In the inflammations of the iris, supervening upon the operation for cataract, good effects have been obtained both by the internal or external administration of henbane. It is supposed that, in this case, the medicine acts, as do all the poisonous Solanaceæ, as much in calming the pain as in dilating the pupil, and this same means will be the best for opposing the adhering of the iris and the occlusion of the pupil, which oftentimes follow the operation for cataract or the severe inflammations of the globe of the eye. It will be equally efficacious in producing a relaxation of the iris, before the operation for cataract.

As has been said above, the topical applications of this agent possess great efficacy in subduing pain, and in the reduction of hernia and paraphymosis it has been successfully used.

All parts of the plant are employed—the leaves, stem, capsules, seeds and root. The root passes for being the most active part of the plant; the seeds are endowed with the most energetic properties.

“The fresh leaves abound in a viscid juice, and when bruised have a strong, fetid, narcotic odor, with a mucilaginous, unpleasant, and somewhat acrid taste. They impart their properties completely to diluted alcohol; water, alcohol, ether, fixed or volatile oils, also take up a portion of their virtues. The aqueous infusion is pale-yellow, insipid, with a narcotic odor. By destructive distillation, the leaves yield a very poisonous empyreumatic oil. The seeds are of a yellowish-gray or brown color, with the odor of the plant, and an oleaginous, bitter taste; they are very small, roundish, compressed, somewhat reniform, and a little wrinkled. They contain fixed oil, fatty matter, gum, bassorin, starch, albumen, vegetable fibre, saline matters, with hyoscyamia, &c.

“Hyoscyamia, the active principle of henbane, crystallizes in tufts of colorless, transparent, silky needles, which are inodorous, of an acrid disagreeable taste, slightly soluble in water, very soluble in alcohol or ether, and volatilizable with little change if carefully distilled. If boiled in contact with water and an alkali, it is quickly decomposed with evolution of ammonia. It neutralizes acids, forming with them crystallizable salts. The tincture or infusion of galls precipitates it from its solutions. Hyoscyamia is an

active poison, as are its salts; a minute quantity placed within the eye, produces a persistent dilatation of the pupil. In its natural state of combination, this principle is very prone to decomposition under the influence of heat, and its destruction is always indicated by the escape of ammonia."

We owe to M. Schroff, of Vienna, some very interesting experiments on hyoscyamia, or the alkaloid, constituting the active principle of the hyoscyamus. No one has better shown the differences and the analogies of action which exist between the alkaloids of stramonium, belladonna, and hyoscyamus. The following is a résumé:

These three alkaloids given in suitable doses produce the effect:

1st. Of invariably determining pneumonia in rabbits. It is probable that this effect results from an elective action on the pneumogastric nerves, of which it produces a paralysis:

2d. Of producing permanent dilatation of the pupil; but the hyoscyamia has an action more rapid, more intense, and more persistent than atropia itself; and besides, as the hyoscyamia is soluble in water, the instillation is less painful:

3d. Of provoking dryness of the mouth and back of the throat, of the larynx and bronchia, also of the skin, and of producing a difficulty of deglutition, and hoarseness:

4th. Of determining, in large doses, cerebral symptoms, vertigos, hallucinations and delirium; but while the delirium caused by atropia and daturia is ordinarily ecstatic, even furious, with great tendency to motion, to laughter and all manner of follies, that by hyoscyamia is calm, inclining to sleep and repose. Thus then hyoscyamia is more freely hypnotic, and induces a calm and deep sleep, while the others repel the tendency to sleep, or at least render it agitated. In small doses, these three alkaloids diminish the activity of the heart and frequency of the pulse: in large doses, this rapid diminution of the frequency of the pulse is followed by an exaggerated increase, equally rapid. At last, if the daturia and especially the atropia, in large doses, invariably determine paralysis of the sphincters of the anus and bladder, this effect is very rare with the hyoscyamia, and that which is the more striking is that its paralytic action is more marked on the sphincters of the iris.

(To be continued.)

**Phytolacca Decandra.***(Garget or Poke.)*

THE Anglo-American name *Poke* is a corruption of *Pocan*, the name by which it was formerly known in Virginia. It is abundant in all parts of the United States, flourishing along fences, by the borders, and particularly in newly-cleared and uncultivated fields. It grows spontaneously in some parts of Northern Africa and Southern Europe, where it is supposed to have been naturalized. The plant is known by various other names, as *Pigeon-berry*, *Scoke*, *Coakum*, &c.

Its chief medicinal characteristics are those of an emetic and cathartic, while it is also described as alterative, antihyperpetic, and somewhat narcotic. Its operation as an emetic is slow, frequently not beginning to vomit in less than several hours after it has been taken. Bigelow says: "From abundant experience, the results of many trials made in dispensary practice, I am satisfied that when properly prepared it operates in the same doses and with the same certainty as ipecacuanha;" but later experimenters give an unfavorable report, from the slowness and long continuance of its action, its tendency to purge, and its acting too powerfully by accumulation. In over doses it produces excessive vomiting and purging, attended with great prostration of strength, and occasionally with convulsions, and sometimes a tingling and pricking sensation over the whole surface.

In small doses it acts as an alterative, and has been highly recommended in the treatment of chronic rheumatism. Dr. C. S. Fenner, of Memphis, Tennessee, has found it highly useful as an internal remedy in granular conjunctivitis, especially in preventing the relapses to which the affection is so liable. The root excites the whole glandular system, and has been highly extolled in syphilitic, scrofulous, rheumatic, and cutaneous diseases. The extract of the root is an excellent remedy for the removal of those severe pains attending mercurio-syphilitic affections (osteocopus), in which it is more beneficial than opium. Mixed with brandy, it is extolled in the cure of rheumatism, easing pain, and producing discharge of the cutaneous and urinary secretions. The root roasted in hot ashes until soft, and then washed and applied as a poultice, is unrivaled in felons and tumors of various kinds. It discusses

them rapidly, or, if too far advanced, hastens their suppuration. Care must be had in powdering the root, as it sometimes occasions headache, purging, prostration of strength, and all the symptoms of a severe coryza. A dram of the pulverized root or leaves, mixed with an ounce of lard, has proved itself an efficacious remedy, as an external application, in psora, tinca-capitis, and some other forms of cutaneous disease. When first applied it occasions a sense of smarting and heat.

Dr. Wilson N. Hunt has used the *phytolacca decandra* in the treatment of asthma, in its various grades, with such uniform success as to induce him to regard it as almost a specific in this dreadful malady. He prepares it by digesting one ounce of the poke in a pint of whiskey, and giving a tablespoonful three times a day for several days, when it may be discontinued, to be resumed again on the first appearance of a return of the symptoms of the disease, and taken as before directed, modifying the dose according to the susceptibility of the patient.

The same gentleman further says that its efficacy in *hydrophobia* is so well attested, as to be worthy of a fair trial. He says: "It not only proves an effectual remedy in all stages of the disease, but is a prophylactic of superior efficacy, always preventing a recurrence of the disease when given to a person that has been bitten by a rabid animal, and before the period of incubation."

Dr. Carey, of Dayton, Ohio, has cured three cases of *sycosis*, and one of *ficus*, by the local use of a decoction of the root. A strong decoction of the leaves is of much benefit in hemorrhoids; injected into the rectum two or three times a day, and a fomentation of the leaves applied to the part, will almost always give relief, and eventually effect a cure. From the analysis in *Annal. de Chimie*, lxii. 71, the ashes of the stems and leaves are shown to contain an enormous quantity of potash, 42 in 100 parts, and it is proposed to cultivate the plant for the manufacture of this article. From later examinations of Dr. E. Donnelly (*Am. Jour. Pharm.* ix. 168) it appears to contain gum resin 62, starch 20, potash 2, a small quantity of fixed oil, and 66.5 of woody fibre. In this plant, however, the potassa is neutralized by an acid closely resembling the malic, though differing from it in some respects.



**Cornus Florida.***(Boxwood. Dogwood.)*

OF the various Cornaceæ, viz: *C. Florida*, *C. Circinata*, or *Tomentosula*, *C. Sericea*, *Cœrulea*, or *Lanuginosa*, *C. Mas*, or *Mascula*, *C. Sanguinea*, or *Fœmina*, *C. Succiea*, or *Herbacea*, the first three are chiefly in use. These all contain a bitter principle, and possess a tonic and astringent property. Nearly all the species are indigenous to this country, and are found growing abundantly in all parts of the United States. The bark is the part made use of in medicine, while the wood is extensively employed in the arts, from its strength and hardness, and its susceptibility to a high polish. The young branches stripped of their bark, and rubbed with their ends against the teeth, render them extremely white. From the bark of the roots the Indians extract a good scarlet color. The wood of the *C. Sanguinea* is used for making charcoal for gunpowder, while the *C. Succiea* is reputed to have tonic berries, which increase the appetite, whence its Highland name *Lusachrasis*, or plant of gluttony. Dr. Ives, of New York, regarded the *C. Circinata* as the most efficient remedy we possess for the cure of chronic diarrhea. It acts particularly on the mucous membranes, producing healthy secretions like the salicin with the additional power of astringency.

"Dogwood bark is tonic, astringent, and slightly stimulant; it is, probably, the best native substitute we have for the cinchona, having often succeeded in preventing the return of paroxysmal fevers, when the foreign drug proved ineffectual. It may be used in all cases where quinia is indicated and cannot be administered, owing to idiosyncrasy, &c., or when it cannot be obtained pure. It may be used with advantage in all cases where tonics are required, in periodical fevers, typhoid fevers, and the like." Dr. Walker says, that when taken internally, it increased the force and frequency of the pulse, and elevated the temperature of the body. Dr. Gregg states that, after employing it for twenty-three years in the treatment of intermittent fevers, he was satisfied it was not inferior to Peruvian bark.

The dogwood bark contains extractive matter, gum, resin, tannin, gallic acid, and a new principle, *Cornin*, which is a principle analogous to quinia, exhibited with success in cases of intermittents.

**Cissampelos Pareira.***(Pareira Brava.)*

THIS is a climbing plant, with numerous slender, shrubby stems, and roundish, entire leaves, indented at the top, covered with soft hair upon their under surface, and supported upon downy foot-stalks, inserted into the back of the leaf. The flowers are very small, and disposed in racemes, of which, those in the female plant are longer than the leaves. The plant is a native of the West Indies and South America, and is supposed to be the source of the root brought from Brazil, under the name of *pareira brava*.

The root of this plant was first mentioned by Piso in 1648, under the name of *Cuapéba*. It was introduced into Paris in 1689, by M. Amelot, the French ambassador at Portugal.

It is usually termed *Pareira* (Parreyra) *brava*, which means, literally, *wild vine*, on account of its supposed resemblance to the root of the wild vine. The Germans call it *Grieswurzel* (i. e. gravel root), on account of its beneficial effects in stone or gravel. The taste is sweetish, aromatic, afterwards bitter and unpleasant. It has no odor.

*Pareira brava* is said to be tonic, aperient and diuretic. It at one time enjoyed considerable reputation as a lithontriptic. It has been recommended in calculous affections, chronic inflammation and ulceration of the kidneys and bladder, leucorrhœa, dropsy, rheumatism and jaundice. The purpose for which it is at present chiefly employed is for the relief of chronic diseases of the urinary passages. Sir Benjamin Brodie found it very useful in chronic inflammation of the bladder, in allaying irritability of that organ, and correcting the disposition to profuse mucous secretion; and it has subsequently come into general use in the same affections. Advantage may often be derived from combining it, in this complaint, with one of the narcotics, as opium or hyoscyamus. (W.)

*Pareira* says of it: "Its efficacy in certain maladies of the urinary organs induces us to ascribe an almost specific influence to this root over the mucous membranes lining the urinary passages. It certainly does appear to have the power of altering the quality of the urinary secretion. We now employ it almost solely in discharges from the urino-genital mucous membrane. It has been used in gonorrhœa, leucorrhœa, and chronic inflammation of the bladder."

## Use of Belladonna in arresting the Secretion of Milk.

BY A. C. MILLER, ORRVILLE, OHIO.

HAVING noticed several articles of late written for different journals (one of which, with several cases reported, in the last Journal of *Materia Medica*), upon the use of belladonna in arresting the secretion of milk, I beg leave to report a case which occurred quite recently in my practice.

Oct. 1, 1858. Was called to see Mrs. B., a young lady of full habits and good health, pregnant with her first child, who, by over exercise, had induced premature labor, and after fifteen hours of severe suffering was delivered of a foetus of 6½ months, the delivery being followed by considerable hemorrhage.

Oct. 2. Saw her at six o'clock A. M.; complained of severe rigors, which I found were produced by hepatic derangement. Ordered five grains of calomel, to be followed in five hours by an ounce of castor oil. Called at seven o'clock P. M.; found my patient resting comfortably; bowels thoroughly evacuated; pulse 80 per minute, and surface covered with a gentle perspiration. Ordered a full dose of morphia.

Oct. 3. Called at eight o'clock A. M.; had rested well through the night; felt comfortable, and had taken some nourishment. I was then called to the country, and during my absence a summons was left for me, immediately upon my return to see Mrs. B., who was, at that time (twelve o'clock), suffering from a severe chill. I saw her at five o'clock P. M.; chill had subsided; she had passed sufficient urine, but was laboring under a heavy fever; pulse 120 per minute, full and strong; tongue dry and furred; skin hot; severe pains in head, back and extremities; respiration hurried; breasts very much swollen, hard, knotted, full, and tender under pressure. It was evidently an ephemera caused by lactic secretion. Owing to the amount of blood lost during and after labor, I did not think it advisable to let blood; consequently, I ordered a mild aperient to be given immediately, and a lotion composed of eight grains of extract of belladonna (Tilden's) dissolved in one dram of water, to be applied to the areolæ and nipples. First application at six o'clock P. M.; applied again at nine and twelve o'clock P. M., also at four o'clock A. M., with relief from first application.

Oct. 4. Called at six o'clock A. M. Found my patient without pain or fever; pulse calm; surface covered with a light perspiration; breasts so relaxed that large rugæ were formed from the axillæ to the nipples; soreness entirely gone; lactiferous ducts so completely unloaded that the use of the breast-pump was uncalled for.

Allow me here to state that the aperient which I ordered failed to move the bowels, nor was a motion obtained until two full doses of oil were given. I ordered a continuance of the belladonna every five hours, increasing the strength of the lotion ten grains to the dram.

Oct. 5. Patient improving; tenderness, swelling, and excitement entirely gone. Tested the extent of lactation by the pump, but found the secretion almost wanting. Discontinued the belladonna for two days.

Oct. 7. Found mammary secretion increasing. I again ordered the belladonna, which was as successful as before. Patient has been improving since the first application of belladonna.

Oct. 8. Patient sitting up; feels well, and without any milk perceptible. Discontinued the belladonna entirely.

Oct. 12. Found my patient out of her room; no milk; appetite good; feels comfortable, but weak; bowels regular; lochia natural; in short, my patient is well.

Would this have been the case had I not applied the belladonna? I leave others to speculate upon this, and only add, that through the whole course of Mrs. B.'s illness, the amount of milk extracted from her breasts would not exceed four ounces.

In noting this treatment in my case-book, I was particular to mark the true periods, and have given them accordingly. If this agent proves as successful with me in the future as it has in this one instance, how little will be my dread in meeting those cases, to what it has hitherto been.

The *modus operandi* of this agent in affecting the mammary secretion is, I think, owing to its relaxing effects upon the system, and the peculiar influence which it exerts upon secretions—the former of which is exhibited in its influence over the pupil of the eye; the latter, in its effects upon the mouth, fauces, and throat.



## The Olympic Practice.

It is from the poems of Homer that we derive our knowledge of the manners and customs, the polity and theology of the ancient Greeks. The siege of Troy, three thousand years ago, was the great event of that age; and the burning towers of the Dardanian city glowed with a light that still shines brightly through the darkness that clings around those distant shores of time. No gross, earth-born flame was that which on the last fatal night illumined the "wine-colored deep," and flashed over the graves of "many-fountained Ida." Divine were the artificers of the Pergamean temples and palaces; and naught but heaven-brought fire could prevail, even in the hands of the sons of the gods themselves, against the walls and battlements of the sacred city. Hence it is that we can still so clearly behold the forms of the heroes and gods who waged war for ten long years upon the plains of "windy Troy." We see them in their tents, upon their couches, seated in solemn council, struggling in battle, smarting with wounds, rejoicing in victory, and weeping around the pyres of the dead. No other book affords so complete a picture of the *life* of a nation, as that which is painted on the pages of the *Iliad*.

As we turn the pages of this immortal poem, let us see what progress the science of medicine has made. That its professors were men of influence is evident from the passage in the second book, which speaks of the sons of *Æsculapius*, *Podalirius*, and *Machaon*; they came with thirty ships to the siege of Troy, and were ranked among the foremost of the leaders and heroes. *Idomeneus*, when calling upon *Nestor* to carry the wounded *Machaon* from the battle-field, assures the old king that—

"A wise physician, skilled in wounds to heal,  
Is more than armies to the public weal"—

and when the wounded *Ulysses* calls upon *Patroclus* to draw the deadly dart from his side, though acknowledging the skill of the hero, he seems to regret that he cannot be attended by the regular surgeons, the sons of the divine *Æsculapius*.

These allusions are sufficient to show the divine estimation in which the healing art was held. *Patroclus* studied medicine with his master *Achilles*; *Achilles* had been educated by the learned

surgeon, the centaur Chiron; and Chiron was the son of Saturn. Here we have an unbroken succession of medical teachers and practitioners, that may be traced from the siege of Troy to its origin among the gods of heaven. Achilles and Æsculapius, the son of Thetis, and the son of Apollo, were the first medical students of which we have any account, and they were taught by the son of a god who had once been mightier than the great "Thunderer" of Olympus himself.

The science of medicine, then, had its origin in heaven. The gods, though immortal, were not wholly exempt from pain and suffering. Jupiter tells his wife that ten long years would elapse before she could be cured of the wounds impressed by his thunderbolt, if she persisted in her disobedience of his commands; and not a few were the cuts and bruises inflicted by profane mortals upon the sacred persons of those deities who interfered upon the battle-field of Troy. The inhabitants of Olympus were, therefore, not unfrequently in need of medical advice and attention. Apollo was their physician; he was the prime source of all medical knowledge; he was the divine superior of Chiron and his school. Before his birth, the art of obstetrics alone seems to have been understood in heaven. Lucina presided at the birth of all the gods and goddesses, and it was only after she had been summoned, that Latona could be delivered of the infant god of medicine. The pains which his mother then suffered appear to have led her to this study, and to the instruction of her children in the same; for in the fifth book of the Iliad, it is related that when Æneas had been wounded in battle, Apollo led him away to his home in the city, when Latona and Diana healed the suffering mortal. Apollo also cured Hector when he had been stunned by a blow with a stone; still it was not often that the gods interfered thus directly for the cure of common mortals. They were for the most part left to the care of physicians mortal like themselves.

During the first great battle recounted in the Iliad, the different gods and goddesses were so fully occupied with war that some little irregularities of practice occurred. Apollo was so busy with his mother and sister in protecting the Trojans, that when the wounded divinities came groaning home to Olympus, they were obliged to call for assistance upon the first individual they met. Thus when lovely Venus came weeping from battle with a bruised

and wounded hand, she was compelled to ask her mother to bind it up for her. This the old lady did, with many consoling words and pleasant tales of similar mishaps that had previously befallen others of her celestial relatives; how great Juno herself had been wounded by the dart of Amphytrion's son, and how Pluto, when he would hinder the entrance of Hercules into the dominions of the dead, was pierced through the breast by that indomitable hero and compelled to hasten to Olympus for assuagement of his pangs. When Mars had been wounded by Diomedes, he was attended by divinity named Pæon, so little known that some authors have supposed his name to be merely one of the titles by which Apollo was recognized. Mars, from the narrative, appears to have been peculiarly unfortunate, always getting into some bad scrape whenever he ventured out for love or war. On this occasion the relation of his sufferings and his reproval by Jupiter touches the perfection of comedy. The process of his cure is thus detailed—

“He who shakes Olympus with his nod,  
Then gave to Pæon's care the bleeding god;  
With gentle hand the balm he poured around,  
And healed the immortal flesh, and closed the wound.  
As when the fig's prest juice, infused in cream,  
To curds coagulate the liquid stream,  
Sudden the fluids fix, the parts combined,  
Such, and so soon, the ethereal texture joined.  
Cleans'd from the dust and gore, fair Hebe dressed,  
His mighty limbs in an immortal vest,  
Glorious he sat, in majesty restored,  
Fast by the throne of heaven's superior Lord.”

From other passages we learn that the *balm* was the ambrosia, or the food of the gods, a substance which possessed the power of conferring immortality upon any one who tasted it. It was in consequence of stealing ambrosia from the table of the gods that Tantalus was doomed to eternal punishment in Tartarus. Mortals were, however, occasionally permitted to taste the life-giving food; and the earth-born sons of the gods were anointed, at death, with ambrosia and nectar, to preserve their bodies from decay. The beautiful episode on the death of Sarpedon recounts the process by which the corpse of the fallen hero was preserved incorruptible. “Apollo snatched the divine Sarpedon from among the contending champions; he bore him far away; he washed the corpse with

flowing water; anointed it with ambrosia, and clothed it with the garments of immortality." In like manner the body of the dead Hector was preserved by the care of Apollo, and was every night renewed and healed of the wounds daily inflicted by the wrath of Achilles.

The most cursory perusal of the *Iliad* is sufficient to convince one that only the simplest forms of the healing art were known among the heroes and gods of that age. Diseases were undoubtedly very rare, probably unknown among the members of the Olympian family. The most skilful physicians of the Grecian army were utterly incapable of staying the ravages of the pestilence sent upon them by the god Apollo. Their skill consisted in knowing how to heal wounds received in battle, which they did by the application of styptic poultices, and by a salve compounded according to a traditionary recipe handed down from the school of Chiron. Severer injuries, like the wounded foot of Philoctetes, and epidemic diseases, were considered as direct manifestations of the displeasure of the gods, who were to be appeased by religious rites and the intercession of the priests. These immediate interpositions of gods with men for both good and evil, were the keystone to this early faith. The rhapsodists taught, and the children chanted the Homeric poems till they dreamed out into reality that fauns and satyrs were sporting in the groves, nymphs bathing in the crystal streams, heroes constellated in the stars, and sacred deities ever winging a feathery flight 'twixt their own green vales and the palatial halls above.

Imperfect as was the skill of the professors of medicine in that age, they were still held in the highest estimation. The ascription of its divine origin and the honors paid to Æsculapius and Chiron are not to be idly counted as among the fruits of ignorance and slavish superstition. Whether we give to the legends of antiquity a literal interpretation, or whether we consider them as symbolic expositions of the forces and laws of nature or society, we cannot overlook their inestimable value as exponents of the natural order of human thought and belief. Every where is acknowledged the divine origin of all *things*, of all *power*, and those mortals to whom was delegated any portion of the power of controlling the order of nature, became at once the living representatives of divinity.



**JUNIPERUS COMMUNIS.***Juniper.*

Native of Europe, though naturalized in some parts of this country, growing in dry woods and hills, and flowering in May. The berries are officinal.

**MEDICAL PROPERTIES.**

Juniper berries are gently stimulant and diuretic. Used chiefly as an adjuvant to more powerful diuretics in dropsical complaints; but have been recommended also in scorbutic and cutaneous diseases, catarrh of the bladder, and atonic conditions of the alimentary canal and uterus.

**PREPARATION.**

Fluid Extract. .... Dose, 1 to 2 Drams.

**INFUSION OF JUNIPER.**

Fluid Extract. .... One Ounce.

Water. .... Half Pint.

Dose—One to three ounces.

**COMPOUND DECOCTION OF BROOM.**

Fluid Extract of Broom. .... Half Ounce.

“ “ “ Juniper. .... “ “

“ “ “ Dandelion. .... “ “

Water. .... One Pint.

Dose—Three to six ounces.

**DENTAL ANÆSTHETIC.**

Tincture of Aconite. .... One Ounce.

Chloroform. .... “ “

Alcohol. .... “ “

Morphine. .... Six Grains.

Mix. To prevent the pain of extraction, and destroy sensibility in the gums by local application. Moisten two sponges of cotton with the liquid, and apply to the gums, for a minute or two, over the tooth to be extracted.

*Dr. Tefft.*

**IN FEVER AND AGUE.**

Furnished by P. BARNES.

Yellow Bark. .... Four Ounces.

Cream of Tartar. .... Half Ounce.

Cloves. .... Thirty.

Sherry Wine. .... One Quart.

Digest for twenty-four hours.

Dose—A wine-glass-full at the first indication of the fit, another in thirty minutes, and a third, thirty minutes after the second.

## COUGH MIXTURE.

Furnished by P. BARNES.

Elixir Paregorie.....	One Ounce.
Emetic Tartar.....	Eight Grains.
Syrup Squill.....	Half Ounce.
Gum Arabic.....	" "
Spiritus Mundereri.....	Half Pint.

Dose—Mix one dram in sweetened water; take sufficient to produce a slight nausea.

## IN DROPSICAL AFFECTIONS.

Furnished by V. C. HOWE, M. D.

Podophyllin.....	Four Grains.
Bitartrate of Potassa.....	Three Drams.

Mix, and divide into eight powders.

Dose—One, every two hours.

## IN ACNE SIMPLEX.

Hyd. Chl. Corrosiv.....	Five Grains.
Aqua Rosæ.....	One Ounce.

Mix. Apply to the affected part. *B. C. Stiles.*

## NEW HÆMOSTATIC.

Decoction of Rhatany.....	Thirty Parts.
Alum.....	Six Parts.

If given internally, seven parts of syrup are to be added. Internally, ten drams may be given three times, daily; while for external use, it may be employed as an injection or lotion. *M. Larin.*

## ANODYNE LOTION.

Prussic Acid.....	One Dram.
Glycerine.....	" "
Aconitina.....	One Grain.

Apply with a camel's hair pencil over parts affected with severe neuralgic pains.

## HOPE'S MIXTURE FOR DYSENTERY.

Nitric Acid.....	Eight Drops.
Tincture of Opium.....	Forty Drops.
Camphor Water.....	Eight Ounces.

Mix. Dose—A tablespoonful.

## BELL'S GARGLE.

Borate of Soda.....	Two Drams.
Yeast.....	Half Ounce.
Honey.....	Half Ounce.
Boiling Water.....	Seven Ounces.

Mix.

## Adulteration of Drugs.

Among the interesting reports read at the present meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association was one by Professor C. B. Guthrie, of New York, on the home adulteration of drugs, which attracted much attention. On account of the general interest felt in the subject, we herewith give a synopsis of this document. After alluding to previous reports on this topic, the report proceeds as follows:

"Because we have only the same class of facts to report, because we come before this body of educated and intelligent apothecaries gathered from so many sections of our country, representing so many interests and feelings, and say to them again what we have said before, that in this our enlightened age and land, this matter of adulteration has become so firmly rooted—so does it permeate all avenues and channels of business and trade—so gigantic are all its hideous proportions, that one and all decline the hazard of an encounter, do not therefore conclude that there is nothing to be said. We have before reported the common adulterations of daily use, and to which we are all accustomed. Shall we reiterate them? telling you again how much alum you get mixed with your cream of tartar, how much brick dust with carbonate of iron, logwood with pulverized cayenne, sawdust with pulverized jalap, pulverized liquorice root with ipecac, sal. nitre with hydr. potassa, manite with quinine, common clay with blue pill, Banbury rhubarb with true Turkey, or worm eaten, half rotten ground up with East India, Maracaibo bark with true yellow or pale bark, with the color regulated by yellow ochre—which, by the way, is a common ingredient in pul. Rhei. Shall we go over the list of fine chemicals, and show how often their inefficiency in the hands of the medical man is attributable to their imperfect manufacture for the purpose of cheapening the product? Shall we rehearse again the history of essential oils, and tell you what every boy in your shop knows full well, that nine-tenths of them are mixed and impure, and otherwise adulterated? Shall we point out the manner in which the valuable gums are sophisticated or deprived of their proximate principles, and then resold? For what purpose or to what end shall we do this? It would be a sorry record of disgraceful facts, alike damning to the active agent and his knowingly guilty participants."

The report goes on to say that this evil is universally admitted, and accounts for this state of things as follows:

"From the earliest recollection of the child, in almost all the walks of life, he is familiar with the gossip of the nurse about remedies for this and that ailment or complaint; more than likely hears discussions upon the propriety of dispensing with some disagreeable remedy the physician has advised, and wonders in his childish way whether the nurse or the medical man really knows best; and as vehemence and volubility carry great weight with children, decides that nurse is the better man. As his sphere of observation extends, some old woman of the neighborhood comes to be his oracle upon the subject of his childish diseases. A little further on he takes up the newspaper; and whether it be religious or secular, city or village, large or small, of great circulation

or limited influence, of one political faith or of another, or of no faith at all, in the North and the South, one and all, without exception, feed his inquiring mind with histories of wonderful cures performed by yet more wonderful remedies, attested to by D. D., M. D., Rev., L. L. D., judges, esquires, colonels, majors, &c., &c. Is it not wonderful how so many of these certificates come to be given by men of high-sounding titles? These advertisements have been so common for so long a time that they hardly arrest our attention now, unless they are in some unusual form or contain some new device. Thus these sellers of patent humbug suborn the press, or, what is equal to the same thing, they pay for the insertion of their advertisements in such a form and shape as to lead the unsuspecting to suppose they are really editorials." Instances are cited to illustrate this point, and numerous quack notices are copied—medicines to cure consumption, female disorders, &c. "These pills should not be used by married ladies at certain times, as results would follow which would disappoint fond hopes." Such is the language of one of these advertisements; and the report asks—"Can editors have consciences, or families, in whose minds they have any desire that purity should reign? \* \* \* After he has progressed thus far, what do you expect him to believe? Where is his faith in medicine? It is mixed up with nursery tales and crude remembrances of childhood, and more recent perusals of newspaper puffs, which he in his verdancy has often taken for editorial truths. In this state he approximates or enters upon mature life. Some serious illness, some well-developed educational process, less or more perfect, may sweep away this rubbish, and he may replace it by the proper and legitimate value of the *materia medica*. But, in the mass, how many come to this point? Nay, look at the mass of mind thus perverted in judgment and often kept from light by prejudice or interest, and can you wonder that the facts of adulteration, startling as they may be, fail to call out such responses as we had expected, or fail to produce that profound effect looked for? This is not confined alone to the question of home adulterations of medicine, by any means. It reaches to what we eat and what we drink—yea, and what we wear. Begin again, back at infancy, and see how much of life is sacrificed to this same evil. If, unfortunately, a denizen of any of our larger cities (and we desire here to speak with due caution and tenderness, having the fear and reverence due to municipal authority and wisdom, as exhibited by the committee of the New York aldermen; moreover, being also duly impressed with the facts elicited from that learned body, the Academy of Medicine of New York, when this subject of swill-fed milk was under discussion—having a wholesome fear of the law of libel, and a due love and reverence for science to restrain us)—what will probably be his early diet? The so-called pure country milk, extracted from cows fed with still-slop, and more than likely suffering a second dilution. If more blessed, and having a country habitation, though he escapes swill milk, when he comes to some of the most common articles of childhood's diet—as tapioca, sago, corn starch, &c., &c.—the chances are decidedly in favor of his getting the mixings of potato starch, and spoiled corn and oat meal ground, kiln-dried and nicely put up in inviting looking bundles, with promising wrappers, telling of their health-giving virtues and value.



As life progresses, he gets mixed chicory, split peas or dandelion root, with his coffee, and various substances with his teas, green or black; while his baker takes good care that his bread shall have various ingredients in it besides the legitimate ones needful. Not only this, but the meat he eats, be it beef or pork, more than likely is fattened upon this same still-slop, and slaughtered before it dies, and cured into bulk, or prime side meat or sugar-cured hams, while corned beef and dry get each their share of the luxurious diet which the aldermen before alluded to must pardon us for not believing to be the very best offered in the market.

"Not only the necessaries but the luxuries of his day have their share; and his wines and brandies share so largely in the general depreciation that it is absolutely dangerous to prescribe them as remedial agents, however carefully they are bought. This is true alike of foreign and American made, some mixed in this and some in the country from whence imported; all, however, mixed, mixed oftentimes first by the importer because the jobber requires a cheaper article than he has on hand; mixed by the jobber because of a like reason, and that his customer's vitiated taste will fail to recognise anything but the doctored material as the wine or the brandy he wants; often mixed again by the retailer, because honestly his profits are thus increased; so that, by the time it is consumed, it becomes a consumer and a positive poison. But this is by no means the worst feature of this traffic. Thousands and thousands of gallons of wine, brandy, gin, &c., &c., never had the smell of the grape or berry upon them even, but are manufactured outright from essential oils, extracts, and essences, with the meanest of corn whiskey. But we will not pursue the details of this part of the subject further. We have said enough to illustrate what we mean by collateral facts. Now, does any one wonder that we buy and sell adulterated drugs? \* \* \* \* \*

"To sum up the whole matter, can we reasonably expect our people to refuse to sell, to buy, or to use adulterated or sophisticated drugs while they permit similar impositions in almost every branch of trade and commerce? Can we reasonably expect people to have faith in the purity of medicines, and be willing to pay the price of them, when they spend annually a sum for patent nostrums sufficient not only to pay the entire medical bills of the sick, but buy their necessary medicines besides? Can we expect even those who give as one of their reasons for believing in that infinitesimal humbug, homœopathy, that they cannot procure pure medicine any where else, to be cautious even about confounding sugar of milk with the powerful chemicals in concentrated forms that so often accompany it? Can we expect apothecaries to always supply themselves with that class of medicines, at the extra price they must and ought to pay for them, when their next door neighbor furnishes a cheaper kind that gives to the consumer equal satisfaction, and pays a better profit besides? Where, then, is the hope for a better state of affairs? Shall we go on and on at this rate, doing violence to conscience and all the principles of honesty recognized among Christian men and gentlemen? We trust not, but yet we cannot say that we see any hope for reform in legal enactments or statutory prohibitions."

The report closes by saying that the elevation of the profession is the best means of attaining the desired object, and points to the growth and success of the association as an evidence that a brighter era is dawning upon this country in this respect.—*Washington Union*.

### Compound Syrup of Phosphates, or Chemical Food.

A syrupy solution of the phosphates of iron, lime, soda, and potassa, with the foregoing title, has been employed for several years back in the city of Philadelphia. The modes of preparing it have varied with various pharmacutists. The concern claiming to have the approval of professor Jackson, (who first introduced it into use) for their preparation, decline to make their mode public. In all of them, however, phosphoric, lactic, and muriatic acids are employed as the solvents. We received, in June last, from Mr. Parrish, of Philadelphia, his formula for it, which he has since published in the *American Journal of Pharmacy*, (November No., 1857). Though differing somewhat from that sent us, we give it place as follows:

Take of Protosulphate of Iron, . . . . .	3 x.
Phosphate of Soda, . . . . .	3 xij.
Phosphate of Lime . . . . .	3 xij.
Phosphoric Acid, glacial . . . . .	3 xx.
Carbonate of Soda, . . . . .	℥ij.
Carbonate of Potassa, . . . . .	℥j.
Muriatic Acid . . . . .	q. s.
Water of Ammonia . . . . .	q. s.
Powdered Cochineal . . . . .	3 ij.
Water, sufficient to make . . . . .	℥ 3 xx.
Sugar . . . . .	℔. iij. Troy.
Oil of Orange . . . . .	m. x.

Dissolve the sulphate of iron in two fluid ounces of boiling water, and the phosphate of soda in four fluid ounces of boiling water. Mix the solutions, and wash the precipitated phosphate of iron till the washings are tasteless.

Dissolve the phosphate of lime in four fluid ounces of boiling water, with sufficient muriatic acid to make a clear solution, precipitate it with water of ammonia, and wash the precipitate.

To the freshly precipitated phosphates as thus prepared, add the phosphoric acid previously dissolved in the water. When clear, add the carbonates of soda and potassa, and afterwards sufficient muriatic acid to dissolve the precipitate.

Now add the cochineal mixed with the sugar, apply heat, and when the syrup is formed, strain and flavor it.

Each teaspoonful contains about 1 grain of phosphate of iron, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  grains of phosphate of lime, with smaller proportions of the alkaline phosphates, all in perfect solution.

Mr. Richardson, in a formula for this chemical food, published since the above,

proposes the employment of pyrophosphate instead of protosulphate of iron, and of citric instead of phosphoric acid, as it lessens the cost of its production.

This compound syrup is permanent, and agreeable to the eye and taste; is but slightly acid and ferruginous; the naturally insoluble phosphates being in a state of solution, are more readily absorbed. It is employed as a nutritive tonic in place of less agreeable and efficient tonics and chalybeates, in those cases of chronic debility or conditions in which there exists a waste of the elementary matter of the system.—*Peninsular and Independent.*

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### *Aconitum Napellus*—Aconite.

Dr. Edward B. Stevens, of Cincinnati, reports (Cincinnati Med. Observer, Oct. 1857,) his success, confirmatory of the experience of others, in the use of aconite, for the cure or relief of "almost the entire range of neuralgic affections, and of those obscure complications, of rheumatism and neuralgia, in which there is freedom from local or constitutional trouble, independent of nervous derangement."

In a case of neuralgia, "supposed to be a result of previous attacks of miasmatic disease," and which was treated by the use of quinine and other remedies with but temporary relief, Dr. Stevens prescribed a mixture of the tincture of aconite and tincture of cinchifuga, which gave entire relief to the patient. The proportion was:

R. Tinct. rad. aconit.	. . . . .	℥ i.
Tinct. cinchifuga,	. . . . .	℥ ij. M.

Dose, a teaspoonful every four hours.

Three doses were sufficient to procure the desired relief. Ten months had elapsed without a return of the disease.

A case of neuralgic rheumatism of the arm, of peculiar obstinacy, after having been intractable to all remedies, yielded to the aconite. In the above formula, each dose should be equivalent to about four drops of the tincture, although, in fact, this latter gives somewhat more than sixty drops to the drachm. In this dose of four drops, Dr. Stevens has "never seen any effects sufficiently marked or evident to occasion alarm."

Dr. S. has not used this article in acute rheumatism; but in chronic rheumatic pains, particularly in old people, he has derived excellent effects from it. In dysmenorrhœa, or neuralgia associated with uterine derangement at or subsequent to the catamenial period, entire relief, followed by refreshing sleep, has been obtained by the administration of the aconite.

In the diminished and sometimes abolished sensibility and voluntary motion to which aconite gives rise, we find similarity of effects to those produced by *veratrum viride* and *gelseminum*.—*North American Medico-Chir. Rev.*

*Cannabis Indica.*

Dr. A. Bryant Clarke, of Holyoke, (Boston Med. and Surg. Journal, May, 1857,) tell us, in reference to Dr. Bell's statement of the dose of the *Cannabis Indica* required to produce the desired effect, that a pill of the extract, in the quantity of two grains and a half, given to a maniacal patient, who had previously taken the medicine in two-grain doses, produced very marked effects. On visiting his patient, two or three hours after she had taken the pill, Dr. Clarke found her sitting up, and more rational and quiet than she had been for weeks:—"The attendant described her as apparently fainting, with respiration slow and regular, a blue and dusky state of the skin, blood settled under the finger nails, and said they had with difficulty kept her alive." Dr. Clarke being incredulous of the effects attributed to the medicine, swallowed one of the pills, soon after a hearty dinner. Within an hour he began to feel its peculiar effects, such as are so well described by Dr. Bell. Dr. Clarke's left arm was paralyzed, the skin looked blue, and there was a blueness under the finger nails, as though the blood were imperfectly arterialized; the pulse was natural. The effect of the *Cannabis* was at its height in about three, and passed off in about five hours. The arm was in a powerless condition for half an hour, but friction would partially restore it.

Dr. Merret, of Detroit, in a short article on this subject, (Medical Independent, Sept., 1857,) describes the *Cannabis* as a deliriant which produces on many of the native population of the East, who use it freely, a most undesirable, in fact, a dangerous frame of mind. These evils are, however, fortunately counterbalanced by the antispasmodic effect of the drug. Dr. Merret speaks from a personal observation, during three years in a military hospital at Calcutta, of its administration in *tetanus*. In idiopathic cases it was most generally successful, and even in traumatic cases it showed its superiority over all other remedies. He mentions two cases of its successful use in England. Its relaxant effect has been proved to be an aid to taxis, in the reduction of hernia.

For further details of the effect of doses of different degrees of strength, and the descriptions of the manner in which haschisch affects different individuals, we would refer the reader to an article in the National Review, copied into Littell's Living Age, Feb. 20th, 1858.—*Ibid.*

*Belladonna* in Juvenile Incontinence of Urine.

The use of *Belladonna* against incontinence of urine in children, as strongly recommended about a year ago by Mr. Brooke, of the Westminster Hospital, has, we believe, well borne the test of the trials which his laudation of it induced. Several surgeons have, we know, formed most favorable opinions of its efficiency. A case under Mr. Hutchinson's care, at the Metropolitan Free Hospital, about three months ago, afforded very conclusive evidence of its power. The patient was a boy of ten, who had from infancy been exceedingly troubled by inability to retain his water. Nightly incontinence was a matter of rule, and very often



the urine would escape during the daytime also. *Nux vomica*, sesquichloride of iron, etc., had been fairly tried, and without benefit. At first the belladonna seemed to do no good, but being pushed until symptoms of poisoning were apparent, it finally effected a complete cure. The bladder appeared to have wholly lost its morbid irritability, and during six weeks that the boy remained under observation, his mother stated that no single instance of incontinence had occurred. The remedy was given in solution in water, and without any adjuvant whatever. Belladonna is one of our remedies which certainly deserves a more thorough clinical investigation of its powers than it has yet received.—*Med. Times and Gazette*, July 31, 1855, from *Med. News and Library*.

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## Editorial.

THE present number completes the first volume of the new series, and is offered as a specimen number of the series to commence January 1, 1859. The JOURNAL OF MATERIA MEDICA has, for a considerable length of time, been favorably known to the profession, and has received from it the heartiest congratulations and wishes for its success. There has never been, in this country, a journal devoted exclusively to the subject of Materia Medica, circulating among physicians, containing desirable and valuable information of new facts and developments in the powers, properties, and applications of the various therapeutic agents; and the only opportunities that have been had for obtaining this knowledge in a systematic form, were the successive editions of the Dispensatories; at the same time these have appeared at too great intervals to afford much practical aid in keeping along with the times, and have been too costly to come into general use. No one man can be expected to become a subscriber to all the medical journals in the country—have the reading of the more important of those of foreign publication—purchase all the new medical books, which may contain but little of the matter of which he is in search, and gather for himself out of the mass what may be useful to him on this subject. To sift these publications, and present the more important and interesting parts of them in a carefully prepared and readable form, has been the aim of the JOURNAL OF MATERIA MEDICA. During the past year it has presented to the profession careful analyses and dissertations on some forty different vegetable agents, bringing the very latest investigations to bear upon the discussions, and, that its efforts have been useful and appreciated, we are confident of, from the numerous testimonials of those who have been subscribers from the first.

The interest which has been manifested in the success of the JOURNAL, and the constant accessions to its list of subscriptions, have induced the proprietors to publish it, from this time forward, in this enlarged and more attractive form, being better fitted for preservation, and more easily read. The JOURNAL will be issued every month, in size and style in conformity with the present number, and will be furnished regularly to subscribers at FIFTY CENTS a year, payable in advance. This amount can be remitted in stamps, with perfect safety.

Our aim will be to make it a practical JOURNAL, subserving the daily wants of the apothecary and physician. It will contain, regularly, discussions on the various agents in our indigenous *Materia Medica*, both those that are well-known and tried, and those that have lately come into medicinal use, as also their application to disease, and their indications and modes of administration. To this end we have secured the coöperation of several medical writers, occupying positions acquired by great practical experience.

Its pages will contain the latest general medical intelligence from American and foreign journals, and communications from physicians, while the publication of new and favorite formulæ will constitute an important feature in the department devoted to pharmacy, together with every thing of interest relating to progress in this important branch of medicine, as improved processes, manipulations, apparatus, &c.

No point or feature shall be neglected which shall contribute to its usefulness, whereby we hope to merit the coöperation of practical men.

Communications to be addressed to

EDS. JOURNAL OF MATERIA MEDICA,

New Lebanon, Columbia County, New York.

JOURNALS RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.—College Journal, Cincinnati; Hunt's Merchants' Magazine, New York; Maine Med. and Surg. Reporter, Portland; Medical Chronicle, Montreal; Medical and Surgical Journal, Boston; Medical and Surgical Journal, Atlanta, Ga.; Physio-Medical Recorder, Cincinnati; Peninsular and Independent, Detroit; Journal of Medicine, Manchester, N. H.; Medical Journal and Monthly Review, Buffalo; Medical and Surgical Reporter, Philadelphia; Southern Medical and Surgical Journal, Augusta, Ga.; Chicago Medical Journal; American Journal of Pharmacy; American Medical Gazette; Virginia Medical Journal; Nashville Monthly Rec. of Med. and Phys. Science; Lancet and Observer, Cincinnati; St. Louis Med. and Surg. Journal; Hall's Journal of Health; Belmont Medical Journal; Charleston Medical Journal and Review; The Savannah Journal of Medicine; The North American Medico-Chirurgical Review; American Medical Monthly; The New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal; American Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette; Braithwaite's Retrospect; North American Med. Reporter; Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal; New York Medical and Pathological Journal; Oglethorpe Medical and Surgical Journal; Medical News and Hospital Gazette, New Orleans, La.; Dental News Letter, Philadelphia, Pa.; The Philadelphia Med. and Surg. Journal.

We have received several letters, inquiring if the Hydrocyanate of Iron recommended by Dr. McGugin in Epilepsy, is the same as the Ferrocyanate of Iron. They are distinct preparations, and should not be confounded. Price \$1 per ounce, and can be sent by mail or express.

Dr. A. Kirk, of Bristol Village, Ohio, desires us to say that he has revised his formula as published, and wishes it to read "a scruple of Phosphorus. Dose, from 5 to 40 drops."

**ANEROID BAROMETER.**—We noticed this instrument in the August Number of this Journal. We have had sufficient time, since then, to test its accuracy, and are pleased to say that it notes the atmospheric changes with an accuracy equal to the best mercurial Barometer we ever saw, and possesses very many advantages over it; its portability is a very important consideration, the size—only measures 9 inches by 2—enables a person traveling to carry it for purposes of scientific observation, and with accompanying tables, note the elevations of a railroad at different points. We have some very valuable tables we hope to be able to publish, as well as general remarks upon the advantage of instruments of this character to every one of sufficient intelligence to appreciate its workings. Mr. Kendall is a master of his business. We refer to his advertisement for further particulars.

The conductors of this Journal assure the profession and its readers that they may expect contributions from Professor Tully, author of Tully's *Materia Medica*, Prof. Charles A. Lee, Prof. T. Childs, Prof. McGugin, Prof. Guthrie, Dr. Jefferson Church, E. Parrish, author of Parrish's *Practical Pharmacy*, and others, whose position and reputation as medical writers are a sufficient guarantee of the practical and interesting character of their contributions.

**PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION IN PHARMACY AND MATERIA MEDICA.**—Dr. S. W. Butler, Philadelphia, of the *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, we observe, will continue E. Parrish's course of instruction on *Practical Pharmacy*, with his co-operation, in a course of twenty-four lectures, which commenced on the 13th of November last. Fee for course, \$15. For further information, apply to Dr. Butler, No. 701 Arch Street, Philadelphia.

We have received a pamphlet entitled "Bradycrote Treatment of Yellow Fever, by *Veratrum Viride* and *Gelsemium Sempervirens*, reported for the *Charleston Medical Journal and Review*, by O. A. White, M. D., and W. H. Ford, M. D.," which we have read with interest. We shall endeavor to make room for it in our next number.

The annual commencement of the Berkshire Medical College occurred Nov. 23d. The graduating class was unusually large. The address to the Class and Graduates was delivered by Prof. William P. Seymour, of Troy, N. Y. The Annual Address to the Alumni, by Oscar C. DeWolf, M. D., of Chester, Mass.

Communications should be forwarded so as to reach us by the 10th of the preceding month, to ensure their early insertion.

Subscribers who have not received the Journal regularly will please write, and we will forward the missing numbers.

Letters from abroad upon Pharmacy, by E. Parrish, to the *Druggists's Circular*, we shall publish in our next issue.

Physicians who wish this Journal regularly will please notify us to that effect as soon as possible.

**CORRESPONDENTS** will oblige, by writing plainly their names, town, county and state.

## Correspondence.

JACKSON, MISS., *Oct. 11, 1858.*—Enclosed find subscription price for Journal of Materia Medica. In looking over your journal, I find it contains many interesting items for the practitioner, as well as the profession at large. Your journal should receive much encouragement from the profession, because it lays before them the experience of many good and true physicians with certain remedies, and guarantees to them the certainty of getting fresh and pure medicines.

JAMES HALEY, M. D.

STERLING, TEXAS, *Aug. 27, 1858.*—Thanks to you for a specimen number of your journal of Materia Medica. I am highly pleased in perusing it, for to the young physician and apothecary you speak many things suggestive, and more of real information. Issued monthly, and containing communications from such a standard source, of extensive practice and experience, it surely must well accomplish the aim it has in view. I heartily subscribe for the journal.

P. S. WOOD.

TITUS, S. C., *Nov. 1, 1858.*—I have been receiving your very valuable Journal of Materia Medica. I have been so much pleased with it that I desire to get all the back numbers and have them bound. I think it will prove a useful edition to my library.

JAMES B. MAYS.

ATALISSA, IOWA, *Oct. 19, 1858.*—Enclosed find fifty cents, for which send me your Journal of Materia Medica. I wish you would send me all the back numbers. I hope you may make your journal all that such a medical periodical of its character might be made, and if you do that, it will certainly be sustained as a leading journal of Medicine, directed particularly to the Materia Medica branch of our science, and will meet the wants of every medical man of our country. I hope it may be of such a character that I will be a lifetime subscriber to it.

M. K. WRIGHT.

MONTICELLO, IND., *Sept. 1, 1858.*—By a mere accident we obtained one of your Journals of Materia Medica. It is valuable beyond a doubt, and we would be much pleased in receiving its cheering influence upon the gloomy pathway of our noble profession.

R. SPENCER & SON, Physicians and Druggists.

CEDAR FALLS, IOWA.—I have read several numbers of your Journal of Materia Medica, and find it to be one of the most valuable for medical men that I am acquainted with. I would be more willing to part with any other of my journals than yours. It is one which every medical man should have.

S. N. PIERCE.

DEPOSIT, N. Y., *Sept. 5, 1858.*—I received the January, June and July numbers of your Journal of Materia Medica. I thought nothing of them at the time, but on perusal, I am led to a favorable opinion. They exhibit a freshness which begets a desire to see them as they are published. I enclose the pay for one year, and wish you would send me the back numbers, with the exception of those I have.

J. L. WAGER, M. D.



Notices of Tilden & Co.'s Preparations, &c.

BOOK OF FORMULÆ.—We shall issue early in January next another edition of this work, with such alterations, modifications, and additions as experience has suggested, embracing the formulæ published in the *Journal of Materia Medica* since its commencement.

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